(a) and (c) Do not arise.

WHO-IMPO Conference

*22. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) persons/authorities being deputed to attend the WHO-IMPO Conference being held in Bangkok from 4th to 6th August, 1997;

(b) what has been the impact in concrete terms of the earlier such conferences of WHO-IMPO on our policy making;

(c) whether Government take benefit of the views from the Parliamentarians who attend such conferences and if so, in what manner; and

(d) what steps would be taken to benefit from such activites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The following Parliamentarians have been nominated to attend the Conference being organised by the International Medical Parliamentarians Organisation (IMPO), a Non Governmental Organisation, in co-operation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), at Bangkok from 4th to 6th August, 97:

1. Dr. M. Jagannath, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
2. Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
3. Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
4. Dr. S. Ramchandra Jichkar, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
5. Shri Sanatan Bisi, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
6. Smt. Malti Sharma, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)
7. Smt. Chandrakala Pandey, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)

The subject of the Conference relates to Women, Health and Environment. The visits are funded directly by the WHO from their inter-country budget.

A similar conference was organised last year also from 24th to 26th July, 1996 by the same Organisers at Bangkok and was attended by 5 Indian M.Ps where the subject related to Health and Development. There is no record of such conferences having been held prior to last year.

These Conferences seek to sensitise the Parliamentarians about important and critical issues pertaining to the Health sector, with a view to placing Health high on the national and regional political and developmental agendas, and to ensure that requisite support at the decision making levels for legislative and policy initiatives are geared towards ensuring the health and well being of all in the country. Such conferences also provide a forum for exchange of experiences on issues of common interest, and further strengthen alliances for the Health Sector in the region.

Health is a subject which influences and is influenced by wide ranging factors like poverty, illiteracy, environmental degradation, societal discrimination, gender inquity, inadquacies of market mechanisms, besides issues like emerging infections, population explosion and a changing epidemiological profile brought about by developments in society, technology etc. Therefore, all policy initiatives made to improve the conditions in any of these areas have a positive impact on Health. Inputs from parliamentarians represent a major thrust in the process of formulating policy and their attendance at international conferences sensitizes them about developments in other countries. The views expressed by Members of Parliament who interact on health issues during debates in Parliament, the

Consultative Committee meetings and meetings of the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development are given due weightage by the Government in the formulation and implementation of policies in the Health Sector. The views of Members of Parliament are also taken into consideration at the annual meeting of the Central Council For Health and Family Welfare the highest policy formulating body in the Health sector Charied by the Union Health Minister and comprising the State Health Minister, Medical experts etc.

Mutual recognition of MBBS and BDS Degrees of India and other countries

*23. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision and procedure for mutual recognition of MBBS and BDS degrees between India on one hand and European and American countries on the other;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of the foreign Universities where BDS degrees awarded by Indian Universities are recognised for further studies;

(d) whether it is done on the basis of bilateral agreements;

(e) in what manner the recognition procedure is regulated; and

(f) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY):

(a) and (b) Section 12 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 provides for establishment of a scheme of reciprocity with a foreign country maintaining a register of medical practitioners for mutual recognition of medical qualifications. Similar provisions exist under section 10(5) of the Dentists Act, 1948 which provides for a scheme of reciprocity with a foreign country maintaining a register of dentists. The effect of reciprocity is that medical/dental qualifications which are recognised in India would be considered as recognised in that foreign country with which reciprocity has been established. Any person possessing such a qualification is allowed to practice medicine in that foreign country irrespective of nationality. Similarly, the medical qualifications of that foreign country would also be recognised in India for practice of medicine by any national possessing qualifications of the country with which reciprocity is established.

(c) There are at present no arrangements for reciprocal recognition with any foreign University in respect of dental education. However, foreign Universities generally use the WHO publication "World Directory of Medical Schools" as a guideline to accept students for further studies. Details of dental degrees awarded by Indian Universities which may have been recognised abroad are not known.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The procedure of recognition of foreign medical qualifications by the Central Government is given under section 12 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. The Medical Council of India recommends recognition of a foreign medical qualification to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for issue of notification therefor. The Medical Council of India does this by way of visitation of the institution or by scrutinising the course of study, curriculum, syllabus, duration of course, facilities provided and standard of examination obtaining through Indian Missions abroad. Similar procedure is to be followed by the Dental Council of India in respect of foreign dental qualifications.

(f) Does not arise.